

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

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- C1
1. (currently amended) A method for serving ~~applications~~ executable application programs over a computer network from an application server system to a target computer, the method comprising:
the target computer signaling the application server system with a request for an executable application program;
the application server system responding to the request by transferring an application descriptor to the target computer;
the application descriptor being read by a helper application executing on the target computer; and
the helper application controlling the target computer to execute the executable application program, which resides on the application server system.
 2. (currently amended) A method as described in Claim 1, further comprising the target computer signaling the application server system with the request for the executable application program by user selection of a link, which is displayed by a browser and associated with the executable application program.
 3. (currently amended) A method as described in Claim 2, further comprising the link containing an application identifier that identifies the requested executable application program to the application server system.
 4. (currently amended) A method as described in Claim 2, further comprising the link pointing the browser to the application server system.
 5. (currently amended) A method as described in Claim 2, wherein activating the link triggers the downloading of the application descriptor from the application server system to the target computer.

Appl. No. : 09/527,188
Amendment Dated : March 29, 2004
Reply to Office Action of : October 27, 2003

Atty. Docket No. 111283.131 US1

- C1
6. (currently amended) A method as described in Claim 1, further comprising the application server system encrypting the application descriptor prior to transmission to the target computer.
 7. (original) A method as described in Claim 1, further comprising invoking the helper application in response to the receipt of the application descriptor on the target computer.
 8. (original) A method as described in Claim 1, further comprising maintaining the helper application on a graphical user interface of the target computer.
 9. (original) A method as described in Claim 1, further comprising maintaining the helper application on a graphical user interface of the target computer to display advertisements.
 10. (currently amended) A method as described in Claim 1, further comprising issuing a command to a browser to display a follow-up page in response to termination of the executable application program on the target computer.
 11. (currently amended) A method as described in Claim 1, further comprising including, in the application descriptor, minimum system requirements information, which is used by the target computer to ensure that adequate system resources are available to run the executable application program.
 12. (original) A method as described in Claim 11, wherein the application descriptor contains transaction mode information.
 13. (currently amended) A method as described in Claim 11, wherein the application descriptor contains application server information indicating a host computer to which the target computer is to attach to receive the executable application program.
 14. (original) A method as described in Claim 11, wherein the application descriptor contains advertisement information indicating a host computer to which the target computer is to attach to receive advertisements.

- C1
15. (currently amended) A method as described in Claim 1, further comprising tracking by the server system a status of the operation of the executable application program on the target computer.
16. (currently amended) A method as described in Claim 1, further comprising a failure server of the application server system receiving error log information from the helper application in response to improper operation of the executable application program on the target computer.
17. (currently amended) A method as described in Claim 1, further comprising the application descriptor containing application server information indicating a host computer of application server system to which the target computer is to attach to receive the executable application program, the host computer being selected to load-balance across the application server system.
18. (currently amended) A method as described in Claim 1, further comprising the target computer mounting the server system to access the executable application program.
19. (original) A method as described in Claim 1, further comprising the target computer accessing the server system via port 80.
20. (currently amended) An application serving system operating across a computer network, the system comprising:
a target computer that requests an executable application program;
[[a]] an application server system that responds to the request by transferring an application descriptor to the target computer;
a helper process executing on the target computer that reads the application descriptor and controls the target computer to execute the executable application program, which at least partially resides on the application server system.
21. (currently amended) A system as described in Claim 20, wherein the target computer is activated to signal the server system with the request for the executable application

C1
program by user selection of a link, which is displayed by a browser and associated with the application program.

22. (currently amended) A system as described in Claim 21, wherein the link contains an application identifier that identifies the requested executable application program to the application server system.
23. (currently amended) A system as described in Claim 21, wherein the link points the browser to the application server system.
24. (currently amended) A system as described in Claim 21, wherein activating the link triggers the downloading of the application descriptor from the application server system to the target computer.
25. (currently amended) A system as described in Claim 20, wherein the application server system encrypts the application descriptor prior to transmission to the target computer.
26. (original) A system as described in Claim 20, wherein the helper process is invoked in response to the receipt of the application descriptor on the target computer.
27. (original) A system as described in Claim 20, wherein the helper process is maintained on a graphical user interface of the target computer.
28. (original) A system as described in Claim 20, wherein the helper application is maintained on a graphical user interface of the target computer to display advertisements.
29. (currently amended) A system as described in Claim 20, wherein a command is issued to a browser to display a follow-up page in response to termination of the executable application program on the target computer.
30. (currently amended) A system as described in Claim 20, wherein the application descriptor contains minimum system requirements information, which is used by the target computer to ensure that adequate system resources are available to run the executable application program.

- C1
31. (original) A system as described in Claim 20, wherein the application descriptor contains transaction mode information.
32. (currently amended) A system as described in Claim 20, wherein the application descriptor contains application server information indicating a host computer to which the target computer is to attach to receive the executable application program.
33. (original) A system as described in Claim 20, wherein the application descriptor contains advertisement information indicating a host computer to which the target computer is to attach to receive advertisements.
34. (currently amended) A system as described in Claim 20, wherein the server system tracks a status of the operation of the executable application program on the target computer.
35. (currently amended) A system as described in Claim 20, further comprising a failure server of the application server system [[to]] that receives error log information from the helper application in response to improper operation of the executable application program on the target computer.
36. (original) A system as described in Claim 20, wherein the application descriptor contains application server information indicating a host computer of application server system to which the target computer is to attach to receive the executable application program, the host computer being selected to load balance across the application server system.
37. (currently amended) A system as described in Claim 20, further comprising the target computer mounting the application server system to access the executable application program.
38. (currently amended) A system as described in Claim 20, further comprising the target computer accessing the application server system via port 80.
- 39-42. (canceled)

43. (new) A method for providing an executable software application program from an application server system to a target computer over a network, the method comprising:

62 sending an application request signal, indicative of the executable software application program, from the target computer to the application server system;

receiving an application descriptor from the application server system, the application descriptor corresponding to the executable software application program;

responsive to information in the application descriptor, executing a helper application on the target computer, the helper application using the information in the application descriptor and identifying executable application program elements used by the target computer to run the executable software application program;

receiving the executable application program elements from the application server system over the network; and

executing the executable software application program on the target computer using the received executable application program elements.

44. (new) The method of claim 43, further comprising selecting a link associated with the executable software application program.

45. (new) The method of claim 43, further comprising installing or updating the helper application on the target computer.

46. (new) The method of claim 43, further comprising decrypting the application descriptor if the application descriptor is received in encrypted form.

47. (new) The method of claim 43, further comprising checking a firewall proxy to allow streaming of the executable application program elements from the application server system to the target computer.

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C2 48. (new) The method of claim 43, wherein receiving the executable application program elements comprises receiving streaming data including the executable application program elements.
